



Flathead City-County Board of Health
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FCEMS Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes of July 28, 2008

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Health Department Conference Room – Earl Bennett Building

Action Items from This Meeting:

- Change Advisory Committee meeting day?
- Sacco Triage implementation
- FCEMS Leader?
- 911 Bond: PR person, campaign representatives
- EMS publicity
- Protocols

It is the mission of the Flathead City-County Health Department to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy through collaboration, education, promoting stewardship of our resources, and providing preventative health services to our community.

Attendees:

Scott Alexander	Representing ALS Transport Units
Art Bielz	Representing BLS Non-Transporting Units
Marty Boehm	FCEMS; Acting Chair
James Brower	Marion Fire
Diana Cook	Marion Ambulance
DC Haas	Representing ALS Transport Units (Alternate for Randy Brodehl)
Gary Mahugh	Creston Fire
Mary Granger	Representing BLS Transport Units
Wayne Miller	Board of Health
Tracy Norred	Bigfork Fire
Mark Peck	911 Project Director
Robyn Redpath	911 Dispatch
Mike Rensmon	Representing ALS Transport Units (Alternate for Lance Westgard)
Gary Solomon	FCEMS
Doug Smith	Board of Health
Bill Taylor	Bigfork Ambulance
Eda Taylor	Bigfork Ambulance
Bill Tidwell	Representing BLS Non-Transporting Units
Craig Williams	Representing BLS Transport Units

Meeting Agenda

- Eda Taylor Thank You (Boehm)
- Open Action Items
- 911 Update (Peck)
- Sacco Triage Update (Dr. Bates, Peck)
- Prioritization of mill levy expenditures (Boehm)
- Ambulance Trip Reports (Dr. Bates, Neil Heino)
- Updates from: Evergreen/Creston; Marion Fire; Bigfork; West Valley (Unit representatives)
- 12-lead EKG in field (Boehm)
- King Airway for Basic Airway Endorsement (Boehm)

Meeting Minutes

Marty Boehm opened the meeting and passed out a draft version of Mill Levy (#2 & #3) Funding Priorities for review and feedback. The FCEMS Sharps disposal policy, implemented 6/9/08, was passed around for review.

The FCEMS office has a new supply of Patient Care “Short Form” booklets. The problem of getting them turned into the ER staff at the hospital remains.

Mark Peck gave the 911 update. Three cities have agreed to move ahead with the understanding that they will revisit the funding formula. The bond for the new 911 building will be on the ballot this November. Design meetings are beginning. Mark will make the design plan public and solicit feedback. Gary Mahugh noted this is not a levy and will need lots of support from the EMS community to get it passed.

Peck talked about setting up the first pass of dispatch protocols. Doug Smith voiced concern about the complexity of the dispatch system and suggested researching other county systems.

Peck talked about the new trunk radio system. We’re still keeping current analog system so ultimately we’ll have a hybrid system.

Mary Granger asked if the bond fails, will we still switch over to new protocols. The answer was yes.

Wayne Miller stated that the EMS units and responders must have inputs into the new protocols. Peck talked about which unit representatives would like to attend the initial protocol meetings.

Miller brought up a recent call where ALERT overflowed an MVA in south Kalispell. Peck said that ALERT was dispatched but did not acknowledge so KFD got dispatched and this was basically a communications problem. ALERT does monitor “Red Channel” while airborne. Peck ‘owns’ the follow-up on this issue.

Tracy Norred noted that Bigfork Ambulance is getting tones but no voice information after that. Peck said that Big Mountain had a lightning strike which degraded radio communications for a few days. Others commented they were having the same experience.

Robyn Redpath described the dispatch radios jumping repeaters during pages and voice dispatch. Peck said the trunk radio system will allow more simultaneous radio communications. He talked about upgraded features and backward compatibility with current handhelds. Not all providers will need to have new digital radios.

Boehm asked Bates and Peck to give an update on Sacco Triage implementation. Peck described the Glacier Park International Airport scenario training as very instructive. There were failures using START to begin with. Quick, overview training was provided on Sacco with subsequent Sacco scenario demonstrations. Craig Williams noted that people got training and identified issues from this exercise. Peck highlighted the differences between START and Sacco. Bates questioned that hospitals are not in the critical path to implementing Sacco triage but also, that ER doctors are not very well informed about Sacco. Smith expressed concern about teaching PHTLS which uses START and asked if we should introduce Sacco within that course. Norred stated that Bigfork has not been trained in Sacco triage. Tidwell stated that he is very supportive of Sacco, that it is easy to learn and easy to use. Smith and Bates stated that we need standardization for the county. Bates noted that the ER doesn’t get large numbers of triaged patients from multiple patient scenes right now. Tidwell stated that Creston Fire is (Sacco) scoring every patient they assist now as part of their training program.

Marty Boehm presented Eda Taylor with a framed EMS-Firefighter print with plaques recognizing her for over 25 years of Flathead County EMS volunteer activities. Many people present recalled experiences with Eda and the multitude of contributions she has made over the years.

Boehm asked for feedback on the mill levy funding priorities draft that was passed around. Miller stated that fund allocations will use different methodology this year where justifications will be necessary with funding requests.

Unit activity updates were requested. Williams noted that Evergreen Fire has been busy with some mutual aid calls with Creston. Mahugh said that a joint training with Evergreen went well. Many Lakes remains a navigation “adventure.” Creston’s order for a new vehicle from American LaFrance has been held up due to vendor business issues.

Bates asked if anyone had dispatch or response issues. Williams asked about the unusual “Trauma Bravo” call. Multiple people commented that they do not like the new EMD cards. Smith said there is a major issue on using lights and sirens when responding to calls. Bates suggested checking state and national protocols for response codes.

Miller made a request on behalf of DC Haas of Kalispell Fire that this meeting day be changed from Monday as the city council meetings are a direct conflict for them. Boehm stated that this will be put on the next meeting agenda.

Boehm noted that the King Airway has been approved and that he wants to make a training video. Smith offered to teach some King Airway classes. Bates said that the King airway is being used on ALERT and usually works well but with some mixed results.

James Brower, of Marion Fire, said things are going well with some dispatch glitches. Peck said that some repeaters are being upgraded to fix some communications between units’ handheld radios.

Boehm asked Peck about the West Valley Fire boundary issue with Whitefish Fire. Scott Alexander commented that it is a “vortex” out there and that KFD would handle ALS calls. He added that they are working on resolution of this issue.

Boehm stated that he is working on a grant for 12-Lead EKG. Smith said that 12-lead is becoming the standard of care and is in widespread use. Boehm said that he may get a Zoll representative in to help get this launched. Norred said that Bigfork uses Zoll which has upgrade features for communications. Smith said that there are good 12-lead instructors available for training. Alexander said that 12-lead is good for outlying calls. Smith added that even 4 or 6 leads will get you a lot of information.

Boehm said that CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) needs to be added to protocols and endorsements.

Miller stated that the FCEMS Regulations will be going to the commissioners week after next. He added that the county will need protocols next.

Miller informed the meeting that the Board of Health is looking into forming a materials consortium to lower the cost of drug and medical supplies by way of volume purchasing. He asked for numbers from units regarding annual estimated costs and amounts of drugs and supplies to be reported to Marty or Gary.

Bates reminded everyone that ambulance trip reports need to be submitted within 24 hours and that a short form must be delivered with the patient to the ER.

Bates spoke with Dr. McFadden and Dr. Briles to get a Medical Director meeting going before September.

There was a discussion about short forms and long forms, the time intervals for each, and the legal exposure and protection involved with this documentation.

Peck asked who was responsible for Sacco and also for boundary changes such as the Three Rivers – Badrock boundary currently under discussion.

Miller said the BOH may send questions to the FCEMS Advisory Committee for recommendations looking ahead to a more formal structure. There was a long discussion about who is in charge of FCEMS.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 25.